United Nations S/2015/178

Security Council

Distr.: General
16 March 2015

Original: English

Spain: draft resolution

The Security Council,

Recalling its previous resolutions on Afghanistan, in particular its resolution 2145 (2014) extending through 17 March 2015 the mandate of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) as established by resolution 1662 (2006),

Reaffirming its strong commitment to the sovereignty, independence, territorial integrity and national unity of Afghanistan,

Welcoming the completion at the end of 2014 of the Transition (Inteqal) Process and the initiation of the Transformation Decade (2015-2024) with the assumption of full responsibility for the security sector by Afghan institutions, *recognizing* that transition is not only a security process but also entails the full assumption of Afghan leadership and ownership in governance and development, and *affirming* that the United Nations support in Afghanistan takes full account of the completion of the transition process in Afghanistan,

Emphasizing the Kabul Process towards the primary objective of reinforced Afghan leadership and ownership, strengthened international partnership and regional cooperation, improved Afghan governance, enhanced capabilities of Afghan security forces, economic growth, sustainable development and better protection for the rights of all Afghan citizens, including women and girls, and *welcoming* specifically the commitments made by the Afghan Government,

Stressing the importance of a comprehensive approach to address the security, economic, governance and development challenges in Afghanistan, which are of an interconnected nature, and *recognizing* that there is no purely military solution to ensure the stability of Afghanistan,

Reaffirming its continued support for the Government and people of Afghanistan as they rebuild their country, and strengthen the foundations of sustainable peace and development and constitutional democracy,

Welcoming the inauguration on 29 September 2014 of the new President of Afghanistan, marking the first democratic transition of power in the country's history, as well as the establishment of a Government of National Unity and *emphasizing* the importance of all parties in Afghanistan working within the framework of the Government of National Unity in order to achieve a unified, peaceful and prosperous future for all the people of Afghanistan,

Please recycle

Welcoming further the strategic consensus between the Government of Afghanistan and the International Community on a renewed and enduring partnership for the Transformation Decade based on firm mutual commitments, and *welcoming* progress made towards meeting the mutual commitments set out in the Tokyo Mutual Accountability Framework and reaffirmed at the 2014 London Conference, to support the sustainable economic growth and development of Afghanistan, and *reaffirming* the importance of continued efforts by the Government of Afghanistan and the international community towards meeting their mutual commitments,

Affirming that sustainable progress on security, governance, human rights, including the rights of women and girls, rule of law and development as well as the cross-cutting issues of counter-narcotics, anti-corruption and accountability are mutually reinforcing and that governance and development programmes should be consistent with the goals set forth in the Tokyo Declaration and the Government of Afghanistan's National Priority Programmes, and *welcoming* the continuing efforts of the Government of Afghanistan and the international community to address these challenges through a comprehensive approach,

Reaffirming specifically in this context its support for the implementation, under the leadership and ownership of the Afghan people, of the commitments set out in the London (S/2010/65) and Kabul Conference Communiqués, of the Afghanistan National Development Strategy (ANDS) and of the National Drugs Control Strategy, as part of the comprehensive implementation strategy to be taken forward by the Government of Afghanistan with the support of the region and the international community, and with a central and impartial coordinating role for the United Nations among donors, consistent with the Kabul Process and in line with the National Priority Programmes,

Welcoming the Afghan government reform programme entitled "Realizing Self-Reliance: Commitments to Reforms and Renewed Partnership" that contains strategic policy priorities for Afghanistan towards realizing self-reliance in the Transformation Decade for improving security, political stability, economic and fiscal stabilization, advancing good governance, including electoral reform and strengthening democratic institutions, promoting the rule of law, and respect for human rights, particularly in relation to women and girls, fighting corruption and the illicit economy, including narcotics, and paving the way for enhanced private sector investment and sustainable, social, environmental and economic development, and in this context *affirming* its support for the implementation of this reform programme under leadership and ownership of the Government of Afghanistan,

Stressing the crucial importance of advancing regional cooperation as an effective means to promote security, stability and economic and social development in Afghanistan, *recalling* the importance of the Kabul Declaration of 22 December 2002 on Good-Neighbourly Relations (Kabul Declaration) (S/2002/1416), *welcoming*, in this regard, the continued commitment of the international community to support stability and development in Afghanistan, and *noting* international and regional initiatives such as the Heart of Asia-Istanbul Process on Regional Security and Cooperation for a Secure and Stable Afghanistan, the quadrilateral Summit of Afghanistan, Pakistan, Tajikistan and the Russian Federation as well as the Trilateral Summit of Afghanistan, Iran and Pakistan, the

Trilateral Summit of Afghanistan, Pakistan and Turkey and the Trilateral Summit of Afghanistan, Pakistan and the UK, as well as those by the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), the Collective Security Organization (CSTO) and the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) and the Regional Economic Cooperation Conference on Afghanistan (RECCA) process,

Commending the outcome of the Fourth Heart of Asia-Istanbul Process Ministerial Conference, which convened in Beijing in October 2014, where Afghanistan and its regional partners, while stating their belief that increased political mutual trust and deepened regional cooperation are the foundation for peace and prosperity in Afghanistan and the region, reaffirmed their commitment to pursue opportunities to enhance regional economic cooperation and called upon the rest of the international community to fulfil their commitments to the long-term development of Afghanistan, *welcoming* the confidence-building measures on Counter-Terrorism, Counter-Narcotics and Trade, Commerce and Investment Opportunity, and those on Education, Disaster Management and Regional Infrastructure, *welcoming* the Fifth Heart of Asia Ministerial Conference, to be held in Pakistan in 2015, and *noting* that the Heart of Asia-Istanbul Process is intended to complement and cooperate with, and not substitute for, existing efforts of regional organizations, particularly where they relate to Afghanistan,

Welcoming also the outcome of the International Conference on the Solutions Strategy for Afghan Refugees to Support Voluntary Repatriation, Sustainable Reintegration and Assistance to Host Countries, held in Geneva on 2 and 3 May 2012, and *looking forward* to the further implementation of the joint communiqué of the Conference, aimed at increased sustainability of returns and continued support for host countries, through sustained support and directed efforts of the international community,

Stressing the important role that the United Nations will continue to play in promoting peace and stability in Afghanistan by coordinating amongst international donors and supporting the Afghan Government's efforts in the role it plays in leading and coordinating between the Government and the international community consistent with the principle of Afghan leadership, ownership and sovereignty in governance and development and in line with Kabul Process and Tokyo Mutual Accountability Framework (TMAF) and based on the Government of Afghanistan's National Priority Programmes, including, jointly with the Government of Afghanistan, the coordination and monitoring of efforts in implementing the Kabul Process through the Joint Coordination and Monitoring Board (JCMB) in support of the priorities set up by the Government of Afghanistan and affirmed at the Tokyo and London Conferences; and *expressing* its appreciation and strong support for the ongoing efforts of the Secretary-General, his Special Representative for Afghanistan and in particular the women and men of UNAMA who are serving in difficult conditions to help the people of Afghanistan,

Stressing the importance of a comprehensive and inclusive, Afghan-led and Afghan-owned political process in Afghanistan to support reconciliation for all those who are prepared to reconcile as laid forth in the 20 July 2010 Kabul Conference Communiqué on dialogue for all those who renounce violence, have no links to international terrorist organizations, including Al-Qaida, respect the constitution, including its human rights provisions, notably the rights of women, and are willing to join in building a peaceful Afghanistan, and further elaborated in the

5 December 2011 Bonn Conference Conclusions supported by the Government of Afghanistan and the international community, with full respect for the implementation of measures and application of the procedures introduced by the Security Council in its resolutions 1267 (1999), 1988 (2011), 2082 (2012), 2160 (2014), as well as other relevant resolutions of the Council,

Recalling the Government of Afghanistan's commitments at the Kabul, Tokyo and London Conferences to strengthen and improve Afghanistan's electoral process, including long-term electoral reform, in order to ensure that future elections will be transparent, credible, inclusive and democratic, and *looking forward* to preparations for the upcoming parliamentary elections,

Reaffirming that Afghanistan's peaceful future lies in the building of a stable, secure, economically sustainable state, free of terrorism and narcotics and based on the rule of law, strengthened democratic institutions, respect for the separation of powers, reinforced constitutional checks and balances and the guarantee and enforcement of citizens' rights and obligations, *welcoming* the contribution of the International Contact Group to the United Nations efforts in coordinating and broadening international support for Afghanistan,

Underlining the importance of operationally capable, professional, inclusive and sustainable Afghan National Security Forces for meeting Afghanistan's security needs, with a view to lasting peace, security and stability, *stressing* the long-term commitment, beyond 2014, and into the Transformation Decade (2015-2024), of the international community to support the further development, including training, and professionalization of the Afghan National Defence and Security Forces, and the recruitment and retention of women to the Afghan National Defence and Security Forces, *acknowledging* the contribution of Afghanistan's partners to peace and security in Afghanistan, *noting* the conclusion of the ISAF Mission at the end of 2014, and *welcoming* the agreement between NATO and Afghanistan which led to the establishment on 1 January 2015 of the non-combat Resolute Support Mission, for training, advising and assisting the Afghan National Defence and Security Forces at the invitation of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, *noting* the responsibility of the Government of Afghanistan to sustain a sufficient and capable ANDSF, *noting also* NATO and contributing partners' contribution to the financial sustainment of the ANDSF and the long-term NATO-Afghanistan Enduring Partnership, with a clear view to the assumption, no later than 2024, of full financial responsibility for its own security forces by the Government of Afghanistan and *recalling* in this context resolution 2189 (2014),

Stressing the need for all United Nations agencies, funds and programmes, through the country team mechanism and a "One-UN" approach under the guidance of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, in a manner that increases effectiveness including through cost-effective mechanisms and aid information sharing strategies to further increase efforts, in full consultation and cooperation with the Government of Afghanistan, to achieve further greater coherence, coordination, efficiency and full alignment with the Government of Afghanistan's National Priority Programmes,

Welcoming the efforts of countries that are sustaining their civilian efforts to assist the Government and the people of Afghanistan and encouraging the international community to further enhance their contributions in a coordinated manner with the Afghan authorities and UNAMA, with a view to strengthening

Afghan leadership and ownership, as reaffirmed in the Kabul Process and at the Tokyo Conference in July 2012 and the London Conference in December 2014,

Stressing the need to further improve the efficient and effective delivery of humanitarian assistance, including through enhanced coordination among the United Nations agencies, funds and programmes under the authority of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and between the United Nations and other donors, especially where it is most needed, *welcoming* the establishment of the United Nations Common Humanitarian Fund, and *supporting* the Afghan Government's essential role in the coordination of humanitarian assistance to its citizens,

Emphasizing the need for all, within the framework of humanitarian assistance, of upholding and respecting the humanitarian principles of humanity, neutrality, impartiality and independence,

Reiterating its concern about the security situation in Afghanistan, in particular the ongoing violent and terrorist activities by the Taliban, Al-Qaida and other violent and extremist groups, illegal armed groups, criminals and those involved in the production, trafficking or trade of illicit drugs, and the strong links between terrorism activities and illicit drugs, resulting in threats to the local population, including women, children, national security forces and international military and civilian personnel, including humanitarian and development workers, and *expressing also* its deep concern for the increase of civilian casualties, including women and children from conflict-related violence in Afghanistan, as noted in the 18 February 2015 UNAMA report on Protection of Civilians in Armed Conflict,

Recognizing the continuously alarming threats posed by the Taliban, Al-Qaida and other violent and extremist groups and illegal armed groups as well as the challenges related to the efforts to address such threats, and *expressing* its serious concern over the harmful consequences of violent and terrorist activities by the Taliban, Al-Qaida and other violent and extremist groups and illegal armed groups on the capacity of the Afghan Government to guarantee the rule of law, to provide security and basic services to the Afghan people, and to ensure the improvement and protection of their human rights and fundamental freedoms,

Recalling its resolutions 1674 (2006), 1738 (2006) and 1894 (2009) on the protection of civilians in armed conflict, *expressing* its serious concern with the high number of civilian casualties in Afghanistan, in particular women and children, the increasingly large majority of which are caused by the Taliban, Al-Qaida and other violent and extremist groups and illegal armed groups, *condemning* the targeted killing of women and girls, in particular high-level female officials, *reaffirming* that all parties to armed conflict must take all feasible steps to ensure the protection of affected civilians, especially women, children and displaced persons, including from sexual violence and all other forms of gender-based violence, and that perpetrators of such violence must be held accountable, *calling for* all parties to comply with their obligations under international law including international humanitarian law and human rights law and for all appropriate measures to be taken to ensure the protection of civilians, and *recognizing* the importance of the ongoing monitoring and reporting to the United Nations Security Council, of the situation of civilians and in particular civilian casualties, *taking note* of the efforts made by Afghan and international forces in minimizing civilian

casualties, and *noting* the 18 February 2015 report by UNAMA on the protection of civilians in armed conflict,

Expressing also concern with the serious threat that anti-personnel mines, remnants of war and improvised explosive devices pose to the civilian population, and *stressing* the need to refrain from the use of weapons and devices prohibited by international law,

Encouraging the international community and regional partners to further effectively support Afghan-led sustained efforts to address drug production and trafficking in a balanced and integrated approach, including through the JCMB's working group on counter-narcotics as well as regional initiatives, and *recognizing* the threat posed by the production, trade and trafficking of illicit drugs to international peace and stability in different regions of the world, and the important role played by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) in this regard,

Expressing concern at the continuing increase in poppy production as noted in the UNODC Afghanistan Opium Survey 2014, *noting* the serious harm that opium cultivation, production and trafficking and consumption continues to cause to the stability, security, public health, social and economic development and governance of Afghanistan as well as to the region and internationally, and *stressing* the important role of the United Nations to continue to monitor the drug situation in Afghanistan,

Stressing the need for coordinated regional efforts to combat the drug problem, and in this regard, *welcoming* the Regional Ministerial Conference on Counter-Narcotics in Islamabad on 12 and 13 November 2012, aimed at enhancing regional cooperation to counter-narcotics,

Welcoming the ongoing work of the Paris Pact Initiative as one of the most important frameworks in the fight against opiates originating in Afghanistan, *taking note* of the Vienna Declaration, and *emphasizing* the aim of the Paris Pact to establish a broad international coalition to combat the traffic of illicit opiates, as part of a comprehensive approach to peace, stability, and development in Afghanistan, the region and beyond,

Recalling the declaration addressed to the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB) by the Government of Afghanistan that there is no legal use for acetic anhydride in Afghanistan for the time being and that producing and exporting countries should abstain from authorizing the export of this substance to Afghanistan without the request from the Afghan Government, and *encouraging*, pursuant to resolution 1817 (2008), Member States to increase their cooperation with the INCB, notably by fully complying with the provisions of article 12 of the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, 1988, and *encouraging* further international and regional cooperation with a view to prevent the diversion and trafficking of chemical precursors into Afghanistan,

Supporting the Afghan Government's continued ban of ammonium nitrate fertilizer, *urging* prompt action to implement regulations for the control of all explosive materials and precursor chemicals, thereby reducing the ability of insurgents to use them for improvised explosive devices, and *calling upon* the international community to support the Afghan Government's efforts in this regard,

Recalling its resolutions 1265 (1999), 1296 (2000), 1674 (2006), 1738 (2006) and 1894 (2009) on the protection of civilians in armed conflict, its resolutions 1325 (2000), 1820 (2008) and 1888 (2009), 1889 (2009), 1960 (2010), 2106 (2013) and 2122 (2013) on women and peace and security, and its resolution 1612 (2005), 1882 (2009), 1998 (2011), 2068 (2012) and 2143 (2014) on children and armed conflict, and 2117 (2013) on small arms and light weapons, and *taking note* of the reports of the Secretary-General on Children and Armed Conflict (S/2014/339) and the Protection of Civilians in Armed Conflict (S/2013/689), as well as the conclusions of the Security Council Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict (S/AC.51/2011/3),

1. *Welcomes* the report of the Secretary-General of 27 February 2015 (S/2015/151);

2. *Expresses* its appreciation for the United Nations long-term commitment, including throughout the Transformation Decade, to support the Government and the people of Afghanistan and *reiterates* its full support to the work of UNAMA and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, and *stresses* the need to ensure continued adequate resourcing for UNAMA to fulfil its mandate;

3. *Decides* to extend until 17 March 2016 the mandate of UNAMA, as defined in its resolutions 1662 (2006), 1746 (2007), 1806 (2008), 1868 (2009), 1917 (2010), 1974 (2011), 2041 (2012), 2096 (2013) and 2145 (2014), and paragraphs 4, 5, 6 and 7 below;

4. *Recognizes* that the renewed mandate of UNAMA takes full account of the completion of the transition process and the initiation of the Transformation Decade (2015-2024) on 1 January 2015, and that the renewed mandate is in support of Afghanistan's full assumption of leadership and ownership in the security, governance and development areas, consistent with the understandings reached between Afghanistan and the international community in the London, Kabul, Bonn and Tokyo Conferences and the Lisbon, Chicago and Wales Summits;

5. *Calls on* the United Nations, with the support of the international community, to support the Government of Afghanistan's National Priority Programmes covering the issues of security, governance, justice and economic and social development and to support the full implementation of mutual commitments made on these issues at international Conferences, as well as on continuing implementation of the National Drug Control Strategy fully consistent with the principle of Afghan leadership, ownership and sovereignty reaffirmed in Kabul, Tokyo and London Conferences;

6. *Decides further* that UNAMA and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, within their mandate and in a manner consistent with Afghan sovereignty, leadership and ownership, will continue to lead and coordinate the international civilian efforts, in accordance with the London, Kabul and Tokyo Conference Communiqués and the Bonn Conference Conclusions, with a particular focus on the priorities laid out below:

(a) promote, as co-chair of the Joint Coordination and Monitoring Board (JCMB), more coherent support by the international community to the Afghan Government's development and governance priorities, including through supporting the ongoing development and sequencing of the National Priority Programmes, mobilization of resources, coordination of international donors and organizations, in

a manner consistent with Afghan sovereignty, leadership and ownership and direction of the contributions of United Nations agencies, funds and programmes, in particular for counter-narcotics, reconstruction and development activities; at the same time, coordinate also in a manner consistent with the Afghan leadership, ownership and sovereignty, international partners for follow-up, in particular through information sharing, prioritize efforts to increase the proportion of development aid delivered through the Afghan Government, in line with the commitments made at the Kabul and Tokyo Conferences, and support efforts to increase, the mutual accountability and transparency, and effectiveness of aid use in line with the commitments made at the Kabul and Tokyo Conferences, including cost-effectiveness in this regard;

(b) support, at the request of the Afghan authorities, the organization of future Afghan elections, including the upcoming parliamentary elections, as well as to strengthen, in support of the Government of Afghanistan's efforts, the sustainability, integrity and inclusiveness of the electoral process, as agreed at the London, Kabul, Bonn and Tokyo Conferences and the Chicago Summit; and provide capacity-building and technical assistance to the Afghan institutions involved in this process in close consultation and coordination with the government of Afghanistan;

(c) provide outreach as well as good offices to support, if requested by and in close consultation with the government of Afghanistan, the Afghan-led and Afghan-owned process of peace and reconciliation, including through the implementation of the Afghan Peace and Reintegration Programme and proposing and supporting confidence-building measures also in close consultation with the government of Afghanistan within the framework of the Afghan constitution and with full respect for the implementation of measures and application of the procedures introduced by the Security Council in its resolutions 1267 (1999), 1988 (2011), 1989 (2011) and 2082 (2012) and 2083 (2012) as well as other relevant resolutions of the Council;

(d) support regional cooperation, with a view to assisting Afghanistan utilize its role at the heart of Asia to promote regional cooperation, and to work towards a stable and prosperous Afghanistan, building on the achievements made;

(e) continue, with the support of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, to cooperate with and strengthen the capacity of the Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission (AIHRC), to cooperate also with the Afghan Government and relevant international and local non-governmental organizations to monitor the situation of civilians, to coordinate efforts to ensure their protection, to promote accountability, and to assist in the full implementation of the fundamental freedoms and human rights provisions of the Afghan Constitution and international treaties to which Afghanistan is a State party, in particular those regarding the full enjoyment by women of their human rights, including the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW);

(f) closely coordinate and cooperate, where relevant, with the non-combat Resolute Support Mission agreed upon between NATO and Afghanistan, as well as with the NATO Senior Civilian Representative;

7. *Calls on* UNAMA and the Special Representative to further increase efforts to achieve greater coherence, coordination, efficiency among relevant United

Nations agencies, funds and programmes in Afghanistan based on a "One-UN" approach in close cooperation with the Government of Afghanistan with a view to maximizing their collective effectiveness in full alignment with the Government of Afghanistan's National Priority Programmes, and continue to lead, in a manner consistent with the Afghan leadership, ownership and sovereignty, international civilian efforts aimed at reinforcing the role of Afghan institutions to perform their responsibilities in the following priority areas:

(a) support through an appropriate UNAMA presence, to be determined in full consultation and cooperation with the Government of Afghanistan, and in support of the Afghan Government's efforts, implementation of the Kabul Process throughout the country, including through enhanced cooperation with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, in line with the Government's policies;

(b) support the efforts of the Afghan Government, in fulfilling its commitments as stated at the London, Kabul, Bonn and Tokyo Conferences, to improve governance and the rule of law including transitional justice, budget execution and the fight against corruption, throughout the country in accordance with the Kabul Process and the Tokyo Mutual Accountability Framework, with a view to helping bring the benefits of peace and the delivery of services in a timely and sustainable manner;

(c) coordinate and facilitate the delivery of humanitarian assistance, including in support of the Afghan Government and in accordance with humanitarian principles, with a view to reinforcing the Government's capacity, including by providing effective support to national and local authorities in assisting and protecting internally displaced persons and to creating conditions conducive to the voluntary, safe, dignified and sustainable return of refugees from neighbouring and other countries and internally displaced persons;

8. *Calls upon* all Afghan and international parties to coordinate with UNAMA in the implementation of its mandate and in efforts to promote the security and freedom of movement of United Nations and associated personnel throughout the country;

9. *Reiterates* the need to ensure security of United Nations staff and its support for the measures already taken by the Secretary-General in this regard;

10. *Stresses* the critical importance of a continued presence of UNAMA and other United Nations agencies, funds and programmes in the provinces, in close consultation and coordination with and in support of the Afghan Government, in response to needs and with a view to security and including the objective of overall United Nations effectiveness, and *strongly supports* the authority of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General in the coordination of all activities of United Nations agencies, funds and programmes in Afghanistan based on a "One-UN" approach;

11. *Encourages* the Secretary-General to continue his current efforts to take necessary measures to address the security issues associated with the United Nations presence and, particularly *encourages* careful coordination with the Afghan National Defence and Security Forces;

12. *Underscores* the importance of a sustainable democratic development in Afghanistan with all Afghan institutions acting within their clearly defined areas of

competence, in accordance with the relevant laws and the Afghan Constitution, and *welcomes*, in this regard, the commitment of the Government of Afghanistan at the Kabul Conference, reaffirmed at the Bonn and Tokyo Conferences, to deliver further improvements to the electoral process, including addressing the sustainability of the electoral process, and, *taking into account* the commitments by the international community and the Afghan Government made at the London, Kabul, Bonn, and Tokyo Conferences, *reaffirms* UNAMA's supporting role, at the request of the Afghan Government, in the realization of these commitments, and *requests* that, upon the request of the Government of Afghanistan, UNAMA provide assistance to the relevant Afghan institutions to support the integrity and inclusiveness of the electoral process, including measures to enable the full and safe participation of women, *welcomes* the participation of women in the electoral process as candidates, registered voters and campaigners, and *further calls upon* members of the international community to provide assistance as appropriate;

13. *Welcomes* the continuing efforts of the Afghan Government to advance the peace and reconciliation process, including by the High Peace Council and the implementation of the Afghanistan Peace and Reintegration Programme, to promote an inclusive, Afghan-led and Afghan-owned dialogue on reconciliation and political participation as laid forth in the 20 July 2010 Kabul Conference Communiqué on dialogue for all those who renounce violence, have no links to international terrorist organizations, including Al-Qaida, respect the constitution, including its human rights provisions, notably the rights of women, and are willing to join in building a peaceful Afghanistan, and as further elaborated in the principles and outcomes of the 5 December 2011 Bonn Conference Conclusions, and *encourages* the Government of Afghanistan to make use of UNAMA's good offices to support this process as appropriate, in full respect of the implementation of measures and procedures introduced by the Security Council in its resolution 1267 (1999), 1988 (2011), 2082 (2012) and 2160 (2014), as well as other relevant resolutions of the Council;

14. *Welcomes also* the measures taken by the Government of Afghanistan, including the adoption, in October 2014, of the National Action Plan for the implementation of the Security Council resolution 1325 (2000), and encourages it to continue to increase the participation of women as well as minorities and civil society in outreach, consultation and decision-making processes, *recalls* that women play a vital role in the peace process, as recognized in Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) and related resolutions, therefore *reiterates* the need for the full, equal and effective participation of women at all stages of peace processes, and *urges* their involvement in the development and implementation of post-conflict strategies in order to take account of their perspectives and needs as affirmed by the Bonn and Tokyo Conferences;

15. *Notes* the establishment of the Committee pursuant to Security Council resolution 1988 (2011), its methods and procedures, including procedures to facilitate and expedite requests for travel ban exemptions in support of the peace and reconciliation process, introduced in Security Council resolution 2082 (2012), *welcomes the continuation of*, the cooperation of the Afghan Government, the High Peace Council and UNAMA with the Committee including its Analytical Support and Sanctions Monitoring Team, including by providing relevant information for updating the 1988 List, and by identifying individuals, groups, undertakings and entities associated with the Taliban in constituting a threat to the peace, stability and

security of Afghanistan, as per the designation criteria set out in Security Council resolution 2160 (2014), *notes* that means of financing or supporting these individuals, groups, undertakings and entities includes but is not limited to proceeds derived from illicit cultivation, production and trafficking of narcotic drugs originating in and transiting through Afghanistan, the trafficking of precursors into Afghanistan, the illegal exploitation of natural resources in Afghanistan, kidnap for ransom, extortion and other criminal activities, and *notes with concern* the increasing cooperation of the Taliban with other organisations involved in criminal activities;

16. *Stresses* the role of UNAMA in supporting, if requested by and in close consultation with the government of Afghanistan, an inclusive Afghan-led and Afghan-owned process of peace and reconciliation, including the Afghan Peace and Reintegration Programme, while continuing to assess, including in collaboration with the AIHRC, its human rights and gender implications, including the promotion and protection of human rights, and *encourages* the international community to assist the efforts of the Government of Afghanistan in this regard including through continued support to the Peace and Reintegration Trust Fund;

17. *Reaffirms* support to the ongoing Afghan-led regional effort within the framework of the "Heart of Asia-Istanbul Process on Regional Security and Cooperation for a Secure and Stable Afghanistan", *looks forward* to the next Ministerial Conference to be held in Pakistan in 2015, *calls on* Afghanistan and its regional partners to keep up the momentum and continue their efforts to enhance regional dialogue and confidence through the Istanbul Process, and *notes* that the Istanbul Process is intended to complement and cooperate with, and not substitute for, existing efforts of regional organizations, particularly where they relate to Afghanistan;

18. *Welcomes* ongoing efforts by the Government of Afghanistan, its neighbouring and regional partners and international organizations, including the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), to foster trust and cooperation with each other as well as recent cooperation initiatives developed by the countries concerned and regional organizations, including Trilateral, Quadrilateral, SCO and SAARC Summits;

19. *Calls for* strengthening the process of regional cooperation, including measures to facilitate regional trade and transit, including through regional and bilateral transit trade agreements, expanded consular visa cooperation and facilitation of business travel, to expand trade, to increase foreign investments and to develop infrastructure, including infrastructural connectivity, energy supply, transport and integrated border management, with a view to strengthening Afghanistan's role in regional economic cooperation, promoting sustainable economic growth and the creation of jobs in Afghanistan;

20. *Emphasizes* in this regard, the importance of strengthening local and regional networks of transportation that will facilitate connectivity for economic development, stability and self-sustainability, particularly the completion and maintenance of local railroad and land routes, the development of regional projects to foster further connectivity, and the enhancement of international civil aviation capabilities;

21. *Reaffirms* the central role played by the JCMB, in a manner consistent with Afghan leadership, ownership and sovereignty, in coordinating, facilitating and monitoring the implementation of the Afghanistan National Development Strategy (ANDS) and the National Priority Programmes, and *calls upon* all relevant actors to enhance their cooperation with the JCMB in this regard, with a view to further improve its efficiency;

22. *Calls on* international donors and organizations and the Afghan Government to adhere to their commitments made at the Kabul and Tokyo Conferences and previous international conferences, and reaffirmed in the 2014 London Conference, and *reiterates* the critical importance of enhancing the predictability and effectiveness of aid by increasing on-budget assistance to Afghan government in tandem with the improvements to Afghan budget and expenditure systems and improving aid coordination and effectiveness, through ensuring transparency, combating corruption, and enhancing the capacity of the Government of Afghanistan to coordinate aid;

23. *Calls upon* the Afghan Government, with the assistance of the international community, to continue to address the threat to the security and stability of Afghanistan posed by the Taliban, Al-Qaida and other violent and extremist groups, illegal armed groups, criminals and those involved in the production, trafficking or trade of illicit drugs;

24. *Reiterates* the importance of increasing, in a comprehensive framework, the functionality, professionalism and accountability of the Afghan security sector through appropriate vetting procedures, training, including on child rights, mentoring, equipping and empowerment efforts, for both women and men, in order to accelerate progress towards the goal of self-sufficient, ethnically balanced and women-inclusive Afghan security forces providing security and ensuring the rule of law throughout the country, and *stresses* the importance of the long-term commitment by the international community to ensure a capable, professional and sustainable Afghan National Security Force and *notes* in this context the establishment of the non-combat, train, advise and assist Resolute Support Mission, based on the bilateral agreements between NATO and Afghanistan and at the invitation of Afghanistan;

25. *Welcomes* in this context the continued progress in the development of the Afghan National Army and its improved ability to plan and undertake operations, and *encourages* sustained training efforts, including through the contribution of trainers, resources and Advisory Teams through the NATO Resolute Support Mission, and advice in developing a sustainable defence planning process as well as assistance in defence reform initiatives;

26. *Takes note* of the ongoing efforts of the Afghan authorities to enhance the capabilities of the Afghan National Police, *calls for* further efforts towards that goal and *stresses* the importance, in this context, of international assistance through financial support and provision of trainers and mentors, including the contribution of the NATO Resolute Support Mission, as agreed to and accepted by the Government of Afghanistan the European Gendarmerie Force (EGF) contribution to this mission and the European Union through its police mission (EUPOL Afghanistan), as well as the German Police Project Team (GPPT), *noting* the importance of a sufficient and capable police force for Afghanistan's long-term security, *welcomes* the ten-year vision for the Ministry of Interior and Afghan

National Police, including the commitment to develop an effective strategy for coordinating increased recruitment, retention, training, and capacity development for women in the Afghan National Police, as well as furthering the implementation of their gender integration strategy, and *welcomes* UNAMA's continued support for women police associations;

27. *Welcomes* the progress in the implementation by the Afghan Government of the programme of disbandment of illegal armed groups and its integration with the Afghanistan Peace and Reintegration Programme, and *calls for* accelerated and harmonized efforts for further progress, with support from the international community;

28. *Condemns* in the strongest terms all attacks, including improvised explosive device attacks, suicide attacks, assassinations and abductions, targeting civilians and Afghan and international forces and their deleterious effect on the stabilization, reconstruction and development efforts in Afghanistan, and *condemns further* the use by the Taliban and other extremist groups of civilians as human shields;

29. *Notes* with concern the continued high incidence of attacks against humanitarian and development workers, including attacks on health-care workers, and medical transports and facilities, *condemns* these attacks in the strongest terms, emphasizing that the attacks impede efforts to aid the people of Afghanistan, and *calls on* all parties to ensure full, safe and unhindered access of all humanitarian actors, including United Nations staff and associated personnel, and comply fully with applicable international humanitarian law, and to respect the United Nations guiding principles of emergency humanitarian assistance;

30. *Welcomes* the achievements to date in the implementation of the Mine Action Programme of Afghanistan, and *encourages* the Government of Afghanistan, with the support of the United Nations and all the relevant actors, to continue its efforts towards the removal and destruction of anti-personnel landmines, anti-tank landmines and explosive remnants of war in order to reduce the threats posed to human life and peace and security in the country, and *expresses the need* to provide assistance for the care, rehabilitation, and economic and social reintegration of victims, including persons with disabilities;

31. *Expresses* its strong concern about the recruitment and use of children by the Taliban, Al-Qaida and other violent and extremist groups in Afghanistan as well as the killing and maiming of children as a result of the conflict, *reiterates* its strong condemnation of the recruitment and use of child soldiers in violation of applicable international law and all other violations and abuses committed against children in situations of armed conflict, in particular those involving attacks against schools, education and health-care facilities, including the burning and forced closure of schools, and the intimidation, abduction and killing of education personnel, particularly those attacks targeting girls' education by illegal armed groups, including the Taliban, and *noting*, in this context, the listing of the Taliban in the annex of the report of the Secretary-General on Children and Armed Conflict (S/2014/339), and the use of children in suicide attacks, and *calls for* those responsible to be brought to justice;

32. In this context, *stresses* the importance of implementing Security Council resolution 1612 (2005) on children and armed conflict and subsequent resolutions,

supports the decree by the Minister of the Interior reaffirming the Afghan Government's commitment to preventing violations of the rights of the child dated 6 July 2011, *welcomes* the progress made on the implementation of the Action Plan, and its annex, on children associated with the ANDSF, signed in January 2011, in particular the establishment of the Afghan Inter-Ministerial Steering Committee on Children and Armed Conflict, the appointment of a focal point on child protection, the recent adoption of a new law prohibiting recruitment of children into military units and criminalizing any underage recruitment and the endorsement by the Afghan Government of a roadmap to accelerate compliance with the Action Plan, and *calls for* the full implementation of the provisions of the plan, in close cooperation with UNAMA, and *requests* the Secretary-General to continue to give priority to the child protection activities and capacity of UNAMA and continue to include in his future reports the matter of children and armed conflict in the country in line with the relevant Security Council resolutions;

33. *Remains concerned* at the serious harm that opium cultivation, production and trafficking and consumption continue to cause to the security, development and governance of Afghanistan as well as to the region and internationally, *takes note* of the UNODC Afghanistan Opium Survey 2014 released in November 2014, *calls on* the Afghan Government, with the assistance of the international community, to accelerate the implementation of the National Drug Control Strategy, including through alternative livelihood programmes, and to mainstream counter-narcotics throughout national programmes, *encourages* additional international support for the four priorities identified in that Strategy, and commends the support provided by the UNODC to the Triangular Initiative and the Central Asian Regional Coordination and Information Centre (CARICC) within the framework of the Paris Pact Initiative and the Rainbow Strategy and the UNODC regional programme for Afghanistan and neighbouring countries, as well as the contribution of the Domodedovo Police Academy of Russia;

34. *Welcomes* the continued efforts of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in empowering the Afghan Ministry of Counter Narcotics-led implementation of the Afghan National Drug Control Strategy, including through the JCMB's Counter Narcotics Monitoring Mechanism;

35. *Calls upon* States to strengthen international and regional cooperation to counter the threat to the international community posed by the production, trafficking, and consumption of illicit drugs originating in Afghanistan, with a view to its progressive elimination, in accordance with the principle of common and shared responsibility in addressing the drug problem of Afghanistan, including through strengthening the law enforcement capacity and cooperation against the trafficking in illicit drugs and precursor chemicals and money-laundering and corruption linked to such trafficking, and *calls for* full implementation of its resolution 1817 (2008);

36. *Appreciates* the work of the Paris Pact initiative and its "Paris-Moscow" process in countering the production, trafficking and consumption of opium and heroin from Afghanistan and the elimination of poppy crops, drug laboratories and stores as well as the interception of drug convoys, *underlines* the importance of border management cooperation, and *welcomes* the intensified cooperation of the relevant United Nations institutions with the OSCE and the CSTO in this regard;

37. *Reiterates* the importance of completing the National Priority Programme on Law and Justice for All, by all the relevant Afghan institutions and other actors in view of accelerating the establishment of a fair and transparent justice system, eliminating impunity and contributing to the affirmation of the rule of law throughout the country;

38. *Stresses* in this context the importance of further progress in the reconstruction and reform of the prison sector in Afghanistan, in order to improve the respect for the rule of law and human rights therein, *emphasizes* the importance of ensuring access for relevant organizations, as applicable, to all prisons and places of detention in Afghanistan, *calls for* full respect for relevant international law including humanitarian law and human rights law, and *notes* the recommendations contained in the report of the Assistance Mission dated 25 February 2015, and the announcement by the Government of Afghanistan of a national plan on elimination of torture;

39. *Notes* with strong concern the effects of corruption on security, good governance, counter-narcotics efforts and economic development, *welcomes* the anti-corruption commitments made by the Government of Afghanistan at the Tokyo Conference as reinforced in the Tokyo Mutual Accountability Framework, *welcomes* the efforts of the Government of Afghanistan in this regard, including the issuance of the presidential decree in July 2012, *calls for* continued action by the Government to fulfil those commitments in order to establish a more effective, accountable and transparent administration at the national, provincial and local levels of government, and *also welcomes* continued international support for Afghanistan's governance objectives;

40. *Encourages* all Afghan institutions, including the executive and legislative branches, to work in a spirit of cooperation, *recognizes* the Afghan Government's continued efforts in pursuing legislative and public administration reform in order to tackle corruption and to ensure good governance, as agreed at the Bonn Conference, with full representation of all Afghan women and men, and accountability at both national and subnational levels, *welcoming* the issuance of the Presidential decree of July 2012, and *stresses* the need for further international efforts to provide technical assistance in this area, *recognizes* Government of Afghanistan efforts in this regard, and *reiterates* the importance of the full, sequenced, timely, and coordinated implementation of the National Priority Programme on National Transparency and Accountability;

41. *Calls for* full respect for and protection for all human rights and fundamental freedoms, including those of human rights defenders, and of international humanitarian law throughout Afghanistan, *welcomes* the growth in Afghan free media, but *notes with concern* the continued restrictions on freedom of media, and attacks against journalists by terrorist as well as extremist and criminal groups, *commends* the Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission (AIHRC) for its courageous efforts to monitor respect for human rights in Afghanistan as well as to foster and protect these rights and to promote the emergence of a pluralistic civil society, *stresses* the importance of full cooperation with the AIHRC by all relevant actors and promoting their independence as well as of ensuring their safety, and supports broad engagement across government agencies and civil society for the realization of the mutual commitments made, including the commitment to provide sufficient government financing for the AIHRC, *reiterates*

the important role of the AIHRC, and *supports* the efforts of the AIHRC to strengthen its institutional capacity and independence within the framework of the Afghan constitution;

42. *Recognizes* that despite progress achieved on gender equality, enhanced efforts, including on measurable and action oriented objectives, are necessary to secure the rights and full participation of women and girls and to ensure all women and girls in Afghanistan are protected from violence and abuse, that perpetrators of such violence and abuse must be held accountable, and that women and girls enjoy equal protection under the law and equal access to justice, *welcomes* the adoption, in October 2014, of the National Action Plan for the implementation of the Security Council resolution 1325 (2000), *emphasizes* the importance of maintaining adequate legislative protections for women, *strongly condemns* discrimination and violence against women and girls, in particular violence aimed at preventing girls from attending schools, *stresses* the importance of implementing Security Council resolutions 1325 (2000), 1820 (2008), 1888 (2009), 1889 (2009), 1960 (2010), 2106 (2013) and 2122 (2013), and *notes* the mainstreaming commitments introduced therein, and of ensuring that women fleeing domestic violence are able to find safe and secure refuge;

43. *Welcomes* the Afghan Government's commitment to strengthen the participation of women in the Afghan political life and in all Afghan governance institutions, including elected and appointed bodies and the civil service, *notes* the progress in this regard, *welcomes* its continued efforts to protect and promote the full participation of women in the electoral process, *supports* efforts to accelerate full implementation of the National Action Plan for Women in Afghanistan and to integrate its benchmarks into the National Priority Programmes, *calls on* the Government of Afghanistan to urgently develop a strategy to implement fully the Elimination of Violence against Women law, including services to victims and access to justice, *welcomes* in this regard the launch in November 2014 by the Ministry of Public Health of the Gender-based Violence Treatment Protocol for Healthcare Providers recalls that the promotion and protection of women's rights are an integral part of peace, reintegration and reconciliation, *recalls* that women play a vital role in the peace process, *welcomes* the Afghan Government's commitment to developing, implementing and monitoring the National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security and identifying further opportunities to support participation of women in the Afghan-led and Afghan-owned peace and reconciliation process, *notes* the UNAMA report into the Implementation of the Law on Elimination of Violence against Women in Afghanistan, and the importance of its full implementation, and *requests* the Secretary-General to continue to include in his reports to the Security Council relevant information on the process of integration of women into the political, economic and social life of Afghanistan;

44. *Recognizes* the importance of voluntary, safe, orderly return and sustainable reintegration of the remaining Afghan refugees for the stability of the country and the region, and *calls for* continued and enhanced international assistance in this regard;

45. *Affirms* also the importance of voluntary, safe, orderly return and sustainable reintegration of internally displaced persons, and *welcomes* the inclusion of Afghanistan as a pilot country for the Secretary-General's initiative on durable

solutions, and the progress made on the development of an internally displaced persons policy for Afghanistan;

46. *Notes* the need to continue to strengthen, with the support of the international community, Afghanistan's absorption capacity for the full rehabilitation and reintegration of the remaining Afghan refugees and internally displaced persons;

47. *Requests* that the Secretary-General reports to the Council every three months on developments in Afghanistan, and to include in his reports an evaluation of progress made against the benchmarks for measuring and tracking progress in the implementation of UNAMA's mandate, including at the subnational level, and priorities as set out in this resolution;

48. *Further requests* that the Secretary-General initiate a process to conduct within six months of the renewal of this mandate, a full examination of the role, structure and activities of all United Nations entities in Afghanistan, in full consultation and engagement with the Government of Afghanistan and key stakeholders, including the donor community, in light of the completion of transition and the beginning of the Transformation Decade and in accordance with the principles of Afghan national sovereignty, national leadership and national ownership;

49. *Decides* to remain actively seized of the matter.

United Nations S/2015/179

Security Council

Distr.: General
12 March 2015
English
Original: French

Letter dated 12 March 2015 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to refer to Security Council resolution 2198 (2015), adopted on 29 January 2015, by which the Council decided to extend the mandate of the Group of Experts on the Democratic Republic of the Congo until 1 August 2016.

Accordingly, I wish to inform you that, after consulting with the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1533 (2004) concerning the Democratic Republic of the Congo, I have appointed the following experts:

- Mr. Kodjo Attisso, natural resources/financial issues (Togo)
- Mr. Zobel Behalal, natural resources/financial issues (Cameroon)
- Mr. Gaston Gramajo, humanitarian issues (Argentina)
- Mr. Michael Sharp, armed groups (United States of America)
- Mr. Koenraad de Swaef, arms (Belgium)
- Mr. Emmanuel Viret, armed groups (France).

I have designated Mr. Gramajo to serve as Coordinator of the Group of Experts.

I should be grateful if you would bring this letter to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) **BAN** Ki-moon

15-03980 (E) 160315 160315

Please recycle

United Nations S/2015/180

Security Council

Distr.: General
12 March 2015
English
Original: French

Letter dated 12 March 2015 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to refer to Security Council resolution 2200 (2015), adopted on 12 February 2015, by which the Council decided to extend until 12 March 2016 the mandate of the Panel of Experts originally appointed pursuant to resolution 1591 (2005), and requested that I should take the necessary administrative measures.

Accordingly, I wish to inform you that, after consulting with the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1591 (2005) concerning the Sudan, I have appointed the following experts:

- Ms. Dakshinie Ruwanthika Gunaratne, international humanitarian law (Sri Lanka)
- Mr. Issa Maraut, regional issues (France)
- Mr. Guido Potters, aviation (the Netherlands)
- Mr. Abhai Srivastav, finance (India)
- Mr. Adrian Wilkinson, weapons (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland).

I have designated Mr. Srivastav to serve as Coordinator of the Panel of Experts.

I should be grateful if you would bring this letter to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) **BAN** Ki-moon

15-03979 (E) 160315 160315

Please recycle

United Nations S/2015/181

Security Council

Distr.: General
16 March 2015

Original: English

Letter dated 16 March 2015 from the Permanent Representative of Qatar to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit to you a letter dated 16 March 2015 from the representative of the National Coalition of Syrian Revolution and Opposition Forces (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Alya Ahmed S. **Al-Thani**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

15-04057 (E) 190315

Please recycle

Annex to the letter dated 16 March 2015 from the Permanent Representative of Qatar to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

This month, the crisis in Syria marked a sombre milestone: four years have now passed since the start of the Syrian revolution. Our peaceful calls for freedom and equality have been met with indiscriminate force by Assad's forces. In the past four years, Assad has systematically increased the scale and scope of his violence: heavy artillery, cluster munitions, chemical weapons and barrel bombs have killed more than 220,000 of my compatriots. The Assad regime has displaced more than half of our citizens and tortured tens of thousands of innocent people — over 11,000 of whom to death, as documented by the Caesar Exhibit currently on display at United Nations Headquarters.

Assad's forces bear the overwhelming responsibility for the war crimes committed in Syria. The Syrian Network for Human Rights estimates that more than 93 per cent of civilian deaths are caused by Assad's forces and pro-regime militias. Physicians for Human Rights has found that Syrian regime forces are responsible for 97 per cent of medical personnel deaths throughout the past four years and 88 per cent of deliberate and indiscriminate attacks on medical facilities. And the Secretary-General has, in his reports to the Security Council, shown that, of Syria's 212,000 besieged citizens, 87 per cent are in areas besieged by regime forces and militias (S/2015/124).

Assad's forces have targeted Syrian civilians using barrel bombs and chemical weapons, as confirmed by the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Syrian Arab Republic (see A/HRC/28/69). They have also incubated the terrorist extremist threat now rife throughout Syria. The devastation caused by Assad's brutality has fuelled the proliferation of terrorist extremists and turned Syria into a base from which twisted extremist groups like the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) and Al-Nusra can terrorize civilians in neighbouring Iraq, the region and beyond. Assad has also purposefully facilitated the rise of ISIL by buying its stolen oil and putting money in its coffers. ISIL and the regime have strategically avoided one another in the battlefield: just 6 per cent of the regime's so-called "counter-terrorism" operations have targeted ISIL and just 13 per cent of ISIL attacks have targeted Syrian security forces.

Terrorists like ISIL and tyrants like Assad are intimately interlinked: ISIL takes advantage of Assad and Assad takes advantage of ISIL. Both must be defeated and both must be held accountable for their crimes. The Security Council has repeatedly condemned the widespread violations of human rights and international humanitarian law committed by Syrian regime forces, including in its resolutions 2118 (2013), 2139 (2014), 2165 (2014), 2191 (2014) and 2209 (2015). It has also condemned ISIL and Al-Qaida atrocities, including in its resolutions 2170 (2014), 2178 (2014) and 2199 (2015).

Despite the 11 resolutions that the Security Council has adopted in relation to the situation in Syria during the past four years, the crisis in Syria has continued to worsen. Seventy-six thousand more people have died in the past 12 months. Needs are up by nearly a third. More than 1 million more children have been displaced during the past year. And two thirds of all Syrians inside the country are now in desperate need of emergency assistance.

The status quo is not working. The Security Council — and the world — is failing the Syrian people. Existing Council resolutions are not being enforced, to devastating effect: monthly casualty figures show that the Council's action has not even slowed the death rate. Resolution 2118 (2013) may have reduced the number of chemical weapons. But the regime is still using them. And it is still killing with other weapons. The Council's failure to take meaningful, enforced action is costing Syrian lives.

To stop the slaughter in Syria and bring about the political transition set out in the Geneva communiqué, the world must act decisively to defeat ISIL and its root cause — the Assad regime. On behalf of the Syrian people and my colleagues in the National Coalition of Syrian Revolution and Opposition Forces, I therefore ask that you:

- **Adopt a comprehensive solution to the conflict in Syria** that is capable of both destroying the terrorist extremist threat and creating the conditions needed to force Assad to the negotiating table. Only a comprehensive and intensive effort to defeat ISIL and its root cause — the Assad regime — will effectively degrade and destroy groups like ISIL and lead to the peace and prosperity the Syrian people deserve.

- **Sanction** the individuals and companies that support Assad's killing machine. The Security Council has adopted strong, clear measures prohibiting the provision of oil exports, ransom payments and external donations to ISIL. Similar provisions should be adopted to sanction those who aid and abet Assad.

- **Protect Syrians inside Syria** by establishing a safe zone. Assad's aerial bombardment has already taken the lives of too many civilians. By authorizing a safe zone inside Syrian territory, thousands of Syrian lives would be saved and the 3.9 million Syrians currently living in refuge could begin the process of returning to Syria.

- **Increase humanitarian commitments to the Syrian people**. Despite the soaring needs in Syria, only 57 per cent of crisis appeals by United Nations agencies are funded. The funding shortfall is forcing organizations like the World Food Programme to downsize their services to refugee populations in need. This is unacceptable The world must act with greater urgency to meet the growing needs of Syrian civilians, whether they reside inside or outside of Syria. The Third International Pledging Conference for Syria, to be held in Kuwait City on 31 March, provides an opportunity to do so. It is vital that members of the Security Council contribute generously.

- **Ensure accountability** by referring the situation in Syria to the International Criminal Court. All those responsible for war crimes and crimes against humanity must be held accountable. A referral to the Court would deter future war crimes and bring justice to victims across Syria.

It is time to end the conflict in Syria. Together, we can. Existing Security Council resolutions, including resolutions 2118 (2013) and 2209 (2015), provide the legal basis by which to do so. It is vital that they be enforced. Through the Council's collective action, 2015 can mark the year in which the crisis in Syria ended and the aspirations of the Syrian revolution are realized.

(*Signed*) Najib **Ghadbian**
Special Representative of the Syrian National Coalition
to the United Nations

United Nations S/2015/182

Security Council

Distr.: General
19 March 2015
English
Original: Arabic

Identical letters dated 16 March 2014 from the Permanent Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I should like to set out the position of the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic regarding the report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF) over the period from 20 November 2014 to 3 March 2015 (S/2015/177).

- The Government of the Syrian Arab Republic reiterates that it is committed to its obligations under the Disengagement of Forces Agreement and has accordingly respected the mandate of UNDOF and facilitated its work in every way. For over four decades, for as long as Israel has occupied the Syrian Golan, the Government has cooperated and coordinated closely and fully with the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and UNDOF command. It therefore welcomes the fact that paragraph 30 of the report notes its assistance in facilitating the provision of essential supplies in support of the Force.

- Israel, however, has persisted under various pretexts in its repeated violations of the 1974 Disengagement of Forces Agreement, the Charter of the United Nations and Security Council resolutions, violations that are detailed in numerous paragraphs of the report. Paragraph 3 describes how, on 7 December 2014, Israel committed an aggression against the territory and sovereignty of the Syrian Arab Republic: Israeli warplanes bombed two civilian areas of Rif Dimashq, namely, Dimas and Damascus airport. Syria is surprised that, although the Syrian Government has provided the United Nations with detailed information in that regard, the report fails to mention Israel's numerous air violations of the Disengagement Agreement and of Syrian sovereignty. That failure has encouraged Israel to persist in its violations.

- During the current crisis in Syria, Israel has added a new chapter to the annals of its aggressions and violations by supporting *takfirist* terrorists in the area of separation in the occupied Syrian Golan. The reports of the Secretariat, including the most recent report, state that Israel has directly supported armed terrorist groups. Paragraph 5 states that during the evening of 20 January, in the area north of observation post 54, UNDOF observed two trucks crossing from the Bravo side to the Alpha side, where they were received by Israeli Army personnel. The trucks were loaded with sacks before returning to the Bravo side. On at least four occasions in February, United Nations personnel

Please recycle

at observation post 54 saw vehicles, including small trucks, crossing the ceasefire line from the Bravo side and approaching the technical fence. On one such occasion, several vehicles, including some with anti-aircraft guns mounted on the back, were seen parked next to the technical fence. Those actions are a flagrant violation of the Disengagement Agreement and the Security Council counter-terrorism resolutions.

- The Syrian Arab Republic is disappointed that the Secretariat has persisted in describing the groups as "armed opposition" or "armed groups", ignoring the groups' terrorist nature. Indeed, the report itself describes the crimes committed by the terrorist groups against the personnel and property of UNDOF. Paragraph 12 states that, on 22 December 2014, personnel at observation post 54 observed a white pickup truck with an anti-aircraft gun mounted on the back that is likely to have been a stolen United Nations vehicle. Paragraph 11 states that, on 25 December, United Nations personnel at observation post 54 observed approximately 35 armed persons waving weapons in front of the observation post and firing shots into the air. We also wish to point out that the so-called Yarmouk Brigade, the terrorist group active in the Disengagement Area — which some months ago abducted Filipino peacekeepers and, along with the Nusrah Front, abducted Fijian peacekeepers — has now sworn allegiance to the terrorist organization Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL).

- In view of those facts, it is unacceptable that the Secretariat limits itself to stating in paragraph 28 of the report that it is critical that countries with influence continue to strongly convey to the armed groups in the UNDOF area of operations the need to cease any actions that jeopardize the safety and security of United Nations personnel. The Security Council must shoulder its responsibility to address this situation without delay in a genuine and focused manner. It must immediately take effective action against those well-known States that support the armed terrorist groups, including the Nusrah Front, in order to drive the groups from the area of separation. What is now happening in the area of separation is the inevitable result of two factors. First, the United Nations has ignored the reliable intelligence provided regularly by the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic regarding the risk posed by the widespread presence of armed terrorist groups in the area of separation. Second, the United Nations has turned a blind eye to the direct support that the groups receive from Israel and certain other States.

- Mindful of its obligations, Syria has exercised the utmost restraint in responding to the activities of armed terrorist groups in the UNDOF area of operation. It understands the nature of the region and the obligations that are in force. It reiterates that the actions of Syrian law enforcement forces are a response to an emergency situation arising from exceptional circumstances, namely the terrorist activities of terrorist groups in the area of separation with support from Israel. The groups have moved freely in the area of separation, occupied Syrian territory and the area around the technical fence. They possess advanced weaponry, rocket launchers and armoured vehicles. The actions of Syrian law enforcement forces in the area of separation are the very least that the Syrian Government can do in response to appeals from the local population. The latter has borne the brunt of the terrorists' operations, which have also been directed against UNDOF and its personnel. As the report states

in numerous places, these operations have been conducted with the direct assistance of Israeli occupying forces. The report also refers to tented camps on the ceasefire line. Those camps are purportedly intended for humanitarian purposes, but are in fact logistical bases for armed terrorist groups to smuggle ammunition and supplies from occupied Syrian territory into Syria.

- The Syrian Government stresses that UNDOF must continue to fulfil its mandate within the context of Security Council resolutions and the Disengagement of Forces Agreement. Syria undertakes to continue supporting UNDOF as it has done over the years, taking into account the points made above, so that UNDOF personnel can return to their positions in the area of separation securely and in cooperation and coordination with the Syrian Government. That outcome would enable the Force to fulfil its mandate as prescribed. The Syrian Government has continued to coordinate with United Nations forces active in Syria in order to find a way for UNDOF forces to return to the area of disengagement once the terrorists in the area have been eliminated.

- The Government of the Syrian Arab Republic again emphasizes the need to address the fundamental reason for the presence of UNDOF in the region, namely the continuing Israeli occupation of the Syrian Golan. It again stresses that the occupied Syrian Golan is an integral part of the territory of the Syrian Arab Republic. UNDOF is therefore present on a temporary basis until such a time as Israel's occupation of the Syrian Golan comes to an end in accordance with the relevant Security Council resolutions, including resolution 497 (1981), and Israel withdraws fully from the occupied Syrian Golan to the line of 4 June 1967.

I should be grateful if the present letter could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Bashar **Ja'afari**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

United Nations S/2015/183

Security Council

Distr.: General
18 March 2015
English
Original: Arabic

Identical letters dated 15 March 2015 from the Permanent Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Further to our letter of 23 February 2015 (S/2015/132) regarding Turkey's flagrant aggression against the Syrian Arab Republic on Sunday 22 February 2015, we wish to draw attention to the baseless allegations contained in the identical letters from the Permanent Representative of Turkey addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council (S/2015/127). The Syrian Arab Republic categorically rejects the claims and distortions contained in that letter. It reaffirms the position conveyed in detail to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council in identical letters dated 23 February 2015 (S/2015/132).

The Syrian Arab Republic wishes to highlight the following points:

- In its letter, the Turkish side uses the term "enclave" to refer to the tomb of Sulayman Shah as territory under Turkish sovereignty, and claims that such sovereignty was established by the 1921 Ankara Agreement. That argument raises serious concerns. International law defines an enclave as a portion of a State surrounded entirely by the territory of another State and under the sovereignty of the first State. The tomb of Sulayman Shah is thus not in any sense an enclave under Turkish sovereignty inside Syrian territory. In that context, we wish to reaffirm the point made in our previous letter, namely that the 1921 Ankara Agreement limits Turkey's property rights to the tomb and its premises, and makes no reference to Turkey's sovereignty over the site or ownership of any land.

- Subsequent bilateral arrangements between the two countries, including the 1956 Aleppo Protocol and the letters exchanged since 1973 — the most recent of which, in 2012, reaffirmed the 1921 Ankara Agreement — literally reiterate the provisions of the Agreement. They state that Turkey's property rights are limited to the tomb and its premises, and they make no mention whatsoever of any Turkish sovereignty or land ownership. Indeed, the fact that the Turkish side invokes those documents is the most telling sign that its claims to sovereignty or land ownership are without foundation. The correspondence establishes the sovereign right of the Syrian Arab Republic over its territory, including the site of the tomb, and specifies that Turkish property rights are limited to the tomb and its premises.

15-04341 (E) 200315 230315

Please recycle

- The Syrian Arab Republic once again calls on the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council to condemn Turkey's aggression against Syria and its occupation of Syrian land, and to take immediate action by compelling Turkey to halt all construction in the occupied village of Ashmah and withdraw its forces.

I should be grateful if the present letter could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Bashar **Ja'afari**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

United Nations S/2015/184

Security Council

Distr.: General
18 March 2015
English
Original: Arabic

Identical letters dated 16 March 2015 from the Permanent Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I wish to draw your attention to the position of the Syrian Arab Republic regarding the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of Security Council resolution 1701 (2006) (S/2015/147) for the period from 6 November 2014 to 27 February 2015.

- The Government of the Syrian Arab Republic reiterates its firm commitment to the sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence of Lebanon.
- The Government of the Syrian Arab Republic also reiterates the position set forth in numerous letters addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council regarding implementation of Security Council resolution 1701 (2006). It is surprised that the Secretariat persists in mentioning the Syrian Arab Republic in its reports on the implementation of that resolution, which was adopted as a result of Israel's military aggression against Lebanon in 2006. Accordingly, reports of the Secretariat should conform to the mandate set out in the resolution, instead of deviating from its primary objective.
- The Government of the Syrian Arab Republic rejects Israel's baseless claims concerning the transfer of weapons to Lebanon. Those claims are a desperate attempt to distract attention from the real threat, namely Israel's own aggressive policies, which endanger stability in the region as a whole. It is surprising that the Secretariat persists in including such malicious allegations in its reports, although it acknowledges that it is not in a position to verify them.
- The Government of the Syrian Arab Republic is also surprised that the report attempts to justify Israel's most recent attack on Lebanon and fails to hold Israel responsible for violating resolution 1701 (2006) or murdering a Spanish peacekeeper in a premeditated attack on a United Nations position the coordinates of which it was well aware. By viewing this aggression as an act of retaliation, the Secretariat is merely attempting to avoid issuing any forceful, explicit condemnation of Israel's attacks, its ongoing violations of Lebanese territory and sovereignty, and its targeting of peacekeepers and their bases, in blatant contravention of international law, the Charter of the United Nations and the resolutions of the Security Council.

15-04343 (E) 230315 230315

Please recycle

- The Syrian Arab Republic reiterates that the delineation of the border between Syria and Lebanon is an issue of bilateral sovereignty that should be decided by those States when the conditions on the ground permit. The delineation of borders in the Shab'a Farms area should take place after the Israeli occupation of that area has come to an end in accordance with the authoritative international resolutions.

- The Government of the Syrian Arab Republic affirms that the Syrian Arab Army has continued to defend all Syrian territory and respond to armed terrorist groups, which are supported and funded by States and actors that are now well-known. It is surprising that the Secretariat is overlooking the fact that Lebanese political movements are openly seeking to destabilize Syria by sponsoring, protecting and supporting the *takfirist* terrorist groups that are active in many parts of Lebanon. Those movements are also providing the terrorists with political and logistical support, and that has enabled them to turn those areas into a rear base for terrorist groups that are active in areas next to the Lebanese border.

- The Syrian Arab Republic stresses that it is important for the reports of the Secretariat to avoid double standards with regard to counter-terrorism and the threat that terrorism represents to Syria. Events in Lebanon, Iraq and other countries have proven that terrorism is not confined to a particular State, but that the threat extends to the countries of the entire region and beyond.

- The Government of the Syrian Arab Republic remains committed to cooperating with Lebanon in order to ensure respect for the national sovereignty and territorial integrity of the two kindred countries, and thereby foster the security and stability of both countries and prevent the use of either country's territory to undermine the national security and stability of the other.

I should be grateful if the present letter could be issued as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Bashar **Ja'afari**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

United Nations S/2015/185

Security Council

Distr.: General
16 March 2015

Original: English

Report of the Secretary-General concerning the credentials of the alternate representatives of the Russian Federation on the Security Council

Pursuant to rule 15 of the provisional rules of procedure of the Security Council, the Secretary-General wishes to report that he has received letters dated 16 March 2015 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations stating that Ms. Olga Vladimirovna Mozolina and Mr. Egor Sergeevich Shulgin have been appointed alternate representatives of the Russian Federation on the Security Council.

In the opinion of the Secretary-General, those letters constitute adequate provisional credentials.

15-04146 (E) 170315

Please recycle